Assessment of ground water level

841. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to assess ground water level in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) conducts survey of ground water levels in the country through a network of 15640 observation wells throughout the country. Water levels are monitored four times in a year during the months of January, April/May, August and November with a view to observe the trend of water level fluctuations.

National water policy

842. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review National Water Policy as the existing National Water Policy is inadequate to resolve the various water issues in this country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a comprehensive new National Water Policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Water Policy, 2002 (NWP) was adopted by the National Water Resources Council on 1st April, 2002. The NWP addresses the various issues related to development and management of both surface and ground water resources. The NWP states that it may be revised periodically as and when need arises. Observations / views of a number of people were received in respect of NWP from time to time and they were duly examined by the Ministry of Water Resources. The examination of these views did not call for immediate need for reviewing the NWP. The National Action Plan on Climate Change envisages revisiting the National Water Policy in consultation with States to ensure basin level management strategies to deal with variability in rainfall and river flow due to climate change.

Criteria for declaring project as national project

843. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared 14 projects on different rivers as National Project on 7 February, 2008;

(b) the reasons for not including Narmada Project which is one of the biggest three projects in the world; and